स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एज़िलमलाई) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) से (घ) भविष्य में ड्राप्सी जैसी स्थिति होने से रोकने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को अनेक राज्यों में बेचे जा रहें सरसों के तेल की गुणवत्ता पर निगरानी रखने और सभी स्थानों से नमुने लेने के काम को तेज करने के बारे में एक बार फिर से सतर्क कर दिया गया है।

Self-sufficiency in Production of Medicines

516. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMI LY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of medicines produced by our firms/medical scientists which are self-sufficient for country's use;

(b) the number of export medicines and imported medicines from or to our country with their names;

(c) whether it is a fact that prices of imported medicines are more than that of exported medicines;

(d) if so, the modalities thereof; and

(e) whether Government have any plan for our country's self-sufficiency in medicines'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Marketing of Imported HIV spot-test Kits

517. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Observer of the 17th December. 1998, stating that Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRL), a Hyderabad based pharmaceutical company is involved in marketing of imported HIV spot-test kits of Gene labs, without import licences and Government approval ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the DRL: and

(c) what steps are being taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Since some of the HIV spot kits belonging to Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited, Hyderabad were found to be sold in the market prior to laboratory batch test and clearance, a strict warning has been issued to the firm by the Office of Drug controller General (India). The State Drug Controller, Andhra Pradesh has separately confirmed that the firm has recalled the kits from the market. Besides, the initial application of the firm for import permission of HIV spot kits from M/s. Gene labs, Singapore has not been approved.

(c) Directions have been issued to all Port Officers to be vigilant and not permit any import of drugs without regular import permission and also to monitor imports carefully.

Regularisation of Employees of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau

518. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services of many employees working in the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau, Nagpur have not been regularised as yet, although they arc working for over two decades, doing perennial jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons for not regularising these employees' services;

(c) whether steps are being taken to regularise their services;

(d) whether it is also a fact that salaries of these employees are not being paid regularly; and

(e) whether they are being deprived of fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The question of grant of permanent status to some of the Mage Extra-mural Projects set up by ICMR including NNMB, Nagpur and regularisation of employees working under them has been receiving attention of the Government. To examine the issue a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Harcharan Singh was set up by the ICMR. The recommendations made by the Committee were considered by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Council and consequently to the decision by the SAB, these were further examined by Dr. Ruderappa Sub-Committee. A decision on the recommendations of the Dr. Ruderappa Sub-Committee will be taken by the Government on receipt of views of the Governing Body.

(d) No.

(e) The proposal received from ICMR for granting revised pay scales/consolidated salary to the employees of extramural projects of MCMR is receiving the attention of the Government.

Teaching of Leprosy in Medical Colleges

519. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate attention is not being paid in madical colleges in India for teaching leprosy as a result of which in many cases doctors fail to detect the early signs of this disease in many cases;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to focus special attention on this disease in medical education in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to generate sufficient awareness in the country about leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) It is not true that adequate attention is not paid in medical colleges towards teaching leprosy to M.B.B.S. students.

In the syllabus for Dermatology and Sexaully Transmitted Disease as provided in the Graduate Medical Education Regulation, 1997, Leprology is included and the skills that students should acquire, inter-alia, includes examination and treatment of leprosy patients.

(c) Raising the level of awareness in the Public about leprosy is one of the components of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. The NLEP staff in the districts conduct health education activities as a part of their regular work for the patients, their families and the community. General health care staff are also involved in creating and raising the level of awareness about leprosy. The State Government/UTs have also conducted campaigns to create mass awareness concerning leprosy by actively involving all visual and print media, folk music, dance troops, meetings, rallies, printed materials, hoardings, handbills, etc.

Efforts to Make an AIDS Vaccine

520. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is forgoing ahead in its afforts to make an AIDS vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the endeavours made to stop further spread of the disease in the country?